

Internal Revenue Service

Department of the Treasury
Washington, DC 20224

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Person To Contact:
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PLR-113640-10
Date:
July 13, 2010

Fund =

State =

Country =

Type X =

Company =

Date 1 =

Dear :

This responds to your letter dated March 2, 2010, submitted by your authorized representative on behalf of the Fund. The Fund requests that the Internal Revenue Service rule that income derived by the Fund from a controlled foreign corporation subsidiary is income derived with respect to the Fund's business of investing in the stock of such subsidiary and thus constitutes qualifying income under § 851(b)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code).

Facts:

The Fund is a corporation organized under the laws of State. The Fund is registered as an open-end management investment company under the Investment Company Act of 1940, 15 U.S.C. 80a-1 et seq., as amended (the 1940 Act). The Fund intends to qualify as a regulated investment company (RIC) under § 851 of the Code. The Fund uses an accrual method of accounting and has an annual accounting period ending Date 1.

The Fund has a wholly owned subsidiary (the “Subsidiary”) organized as a Type X Company under the laws of Country. Under the laws of Country, a Type X Company provides limited liability for all holders of its shares. The Fund represents that Subsidiary will be treated as a corporation under the default entity classification rules and intends to ensure such classification by filing a protective election on Form 8832, Entity Classification Election.

The Fund represents that, although the Subsidiary will not be registered as an investment company under the 1940 Act, the Subsidiary will comply with the requirements of section 18(f) of the 1940 Act, Investment Company Act Release No. 10666, and related SEC guidance pertaining to asset coverage with respect to transactions in commodity index swap agreements and other transactions in derivatives.

The Fund intends to invest a portion of its assets in the Subsidiary, subject to the limitations set forth in § 851(b)(3) of the Code. The Subsidiary will invest primarily in one or more of the following types of instruments that are linked to the performance of one or multiple commodities (including a commodity index): commodity and financial futures and options contracts (and fixed income securities that serve as collateral for these contracts), deliverable forward contracts, and cash-settled nondeliverable forward contracts. The Subsidiary may also invest in swaps on commodities or commodities indices or in commodity-linked notes. In addition, the Subsidiary may invest directly in commodities.

Because the Subsidiary will be wholly owned by the Fund, the Fund represents that the Subsidiary will be a controlled foreign corporation. The Subsidiary is expected to generate subpart F income and the Fund represents that it will include in its income the Subsidiary’s subpart F income under the provisions of subpart F of the Code.

Law and Analysis:

Section 851(b)(2) of the Code provides that a corporation shall not be considered a RIC for any taxable year unless it meets an income test. Under this test, at least 90 percent of its gross income must be derived from certain enumerated sources. Under § 851(b)(2), a corporation’s qualifying income includes –

dividends, interest, payments with respect to securities loans (as defined in section 512(a)(5)), and gains from the sale or other disposition of stock or securities (as defined in section 2(a)(36) of the 1940 Act) or foreign currencies, or other income (including but not limited to gains from options, futures or forward contracts) derived with respect to its business of investing in such stock, securities, or currencies

Section 2(a)(36) of the 1940 Act defines the term “security” as –

any note, stock, treasury stock, security future, bond, debenture, evidence of indebtedness, certificate of interest or participation in any profit-sharing agreement, collateral-trust certificate, preorganization certificate or subscription, transferable share, investment contract, voting-trust certificate, certificate of deposit for a security, fractional undivided interest in oil, gas, or other mineral rights, any put, call, straddle, option, or privilege on any security (including a certificate of deposit) or on any group or index of securities (including any interest therein or based on the value thereof), or any put, call, straddle, option, or privilege entered into on a national securities exchange relating to foreign currency, or, in general, any interest or instrument commonly known as a “security”, or any certificate of interest or participation in, temporary or interim certificate for, receipt for, guarantee of, or warrant or right to subscribe to or purchase, any of the foregoing.

In addition, the flush language of § 851(b) of the Code provides that, for purposes of § 851(b)(2), there shall be treated as dividends amounts included in gross income under §§ 951(a)(1)(A)(i) or 1293(a) for the taxable year to the extent that, under §§ 959(a)(1) or 1293(c) (as the case may be), there are distributions out of the earnings and profits of the taxable year which are attributable to the amounts so included.

Section 957 of the Code defines a controlled foreign corporation (CFC) as any foreign corporation in which more than 50 percent of (1) the total combined voting power of all classes of stock entitled to vote, or (2) the total value of the stock is owned by United States shareholders on any day during the corporation’s taxable year. A United States shareholder is defined in § 951(b) as a United States person who owns 10 percent or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of voting stock of a foreign corporation. The Fund is a United States person. The Fund represents that it will wholly own the Subsidiary and that the Subsidiary therefore will qualify as a CFC under these provisions.

Section 951(a)(1) of the Code provides that, if a foreign corporation is a CFC for an uninterrupted period of 30 days or more during any taxable year, every person who is a United States shareholder of the corporation and who owns stock in the corporation on the last day of the taxable year in which the corporation is a CFC shall include in gross income the shareholder’s pro rata share of the CFC’s subpart F income for the taxable year.

Section 952 of the Code defines subpart F income to include foreign base company income determined under § 954. Under § 954(a)(1), foreign base company income includes foreign personal holding company income determined under § 954(c). Section 954(c)(1) defines foreign personal holding company income to include (among other things): dividends, interest, royalties, rents, and annuities; gains in excess of

losses from transactions in commodities (including futures, forward, and similar transactions but excluding certain hedging transactions and certain active business gains and losses); and, subject to certain exceptions, net income from notional principal contracts.

The Subsidiary's income from its investments in commodities and commodity-linked instruments is expected to generate subpart F income. The Fund will therefore be required to include in its income its pro rata share of the Subsidiary's subpart F income for each taxable year in accordance with § 951.

Conclusion:

Based on the facts as represented, we rule that subpart F income of the Subsidiary attributable to the Fund is income derived with respect to the Fund's business of investing in the stock of the Subsidiary and thus constitutes qualifying income under § 851(b)(2) of the Code.

Except as expressly provided herein, no opinion is expressed or implied concerning the tax consequences of any aspect of any transaction or item discussed or referenced in this letter. In particular, no opinion is expressed with regard to whether the Fund qualifies as a RIC under subchapter M of the Code.

This ruling is directed only to the taxpayer who requested it, and is limited to the facts as represented by the taxpayer. Section 6110(k)(3) of the Code provides that this letter may not be used or cited as precedent.

In accordance with the Power of Attorney on file with this office, a copy of this letter is being sent to your authorized representative.

Sincerely,

Susan Thompson Baker
Susan Thompson Baker
Senior Technician Reviewer, Branch 2
Office of Associate Chief Counsel
(Financial Institutions & Products)